Mr. M. K. Krishnamurti Rao.—The present rules are not satisfactory. Retirement must be compulsorily enforced at 55 years.

Mr. A. Ramanna.—Mr. Krishnamurthi Rao's suggestion is not suitable. Government loses if officers physically fit are retired.

Mr. S. Seetharamiah.—A satisfactory rule would be to make retirement optional to an officer between 55 and 60, if he is declared physically fit.

Mr. M. Venkatakrishniah.—Executive officers should be retired at 55. In the case of judicial and administrative officers, discretion may be exercised.

Reply of Government.—Recorded.

SUBJECT NO. 187.

'Stamp duty in British Territory on *hundis*.

M Singri Nanjappa, Tumkur District Board.

Summary of discussion.—In sending *hundis* drawn in Mysore to some places in British Territory, a receipt stamp of the value of an anna is affixed. For negotiating the *hundi* there, another anna is also recovered. This extra recovery needs to be done away with.

Reply of Government.—The existing rules contain the necessrary provision for exemption from double levy.

SUBJECT NO. 188.

'Thumb impression of purchaser of general stamps.

Mr. Thimmannaiya, Tiptur taluk.

Summary of discussion.—Under the present rules for the sale of stamps, a man can personate another and purchase the stamp paper in his name. To prevent such frauds, which might ruin innocent illiterate persons, it may be ruled that thumb marks should be affixed to the stamp paper and against the entry relating to the sale in the register of the vendor, who should certify to the record of the thumb impression. This practice obtains in the Bombay Presidency.

Mr. K. Ramanuja Iyengar also supported the representation.

Mr. K. Krishnamurti Rao said that thumb impression was unnecessary but that the purpose for which the paper was purchased should be directed to be specified.

Reply of Government.—Unnecessary.

EXCISE.

(*Nos. 189 to 196.*)

SUBJECT NO. 189.

Prevention of the spread of the drink evil.

Mr. H. Pilkington, North Mysore Planters' Association.

Summary of discussion.—The increase of revenue under this head is indicative of the daily increasing consumption of toddy and arrack. To check effectively the spread of this evil, it is very desirable to restrict the supply of toddy and arrack, to places where they are not locally available, to limited quantities and to gradually reduce the supply until a minimum is reached. Restricted supply will not result in illicit tapping of toddy trees, if the detective staff is vigilant and properly rewarded. It is also

submitted that there is no hope of reduction of the evil if the so-called "legitimate consumer" is looked upon with compassion. In this country nobody can be characterised as a legitimate consumer. Drinking has been condemned by all religions alike. It is also necessary to have the toddy and liquor shops far away from the crowded places and to gradually reduce their number.

The members are thankful to Government for having reduced the number of shops, but further reduction was possible, as there were too many facilities for drink.

Reply of Government.—Noted.

SUBJECT No. 190.

Bagani trees on hiduvali lands.

Mr. Ranganna, Manjarabad taluk.

Summary of discussion.—The question of permitting landholders in the malnad to tap Bagani trees on their lands for the use of their coolies may be decided early.

Reply of Government.—Cannot be granted as it is a Government monopoly.

SUBJECT No. 191.

Offences under the Excise Regulation.

Mr. D. Srikanta Rao, Devanhalli taluk.

Summary of discussion.—The present system of holding contractors responsible for offences committed by toddy and arrack vendors involves much trouble to the contractors, who are put to great inconvenience on account of the vendors not being brought to book. The consequence is that vendors realizing their safety continue in their dishonest pursuits. It is therefore requested that the existing rule in the matter may be modified and punishment meted out to the offender.

Reply of Government.—Action is being taken to suitably amend the provision in the Regulation.

SUBJECT No. 192.

A contractor's liability for the tree tax on toddy trees.

Messrs. B. Alasingrachar and Payanna, Hassan Municipality.

Summary of discussion.—According to existing rules, the toddy contractor is to pay tree tax in respect of trees on private lands marked out for tapping. In case the contractor becomes a defaulter, the owner of toddy trees marked for tapping will be held liable for the arrears, and will be proceeded against. As this is a very hard rule, it may be modified so that the owner may not be held responsible for the default of the contractor.

Reply of Government.—Will be enquired into.

SUBJECT No. 193.

Interest on excise khists.

Mr. M. Nanjundiah, North Mysore Native Planters' Association, Chikmagalur.

Summary of discussion.—The contract amount of the excise revenue is payable in twelve equal monthly instalments. To ensure punctuality in payment, the contractors are required to deposit an amount equal to two months' khists and to execute a surety bond for the payment of the instalments in time. Even with so many safeguards for the regular payment of Government dues, the contractors are charged with interest, if any instalment is not paid before the 20th of a month. This is hard. Interest may not be levied on instalments falling into arrears.